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ON THE COVER

Jason Matheson from FOX 9. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Correction

Lavender, June 2

On page 28, the photo should have been credited to Sophia Hantzes.

Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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Photo by Mike Hnida



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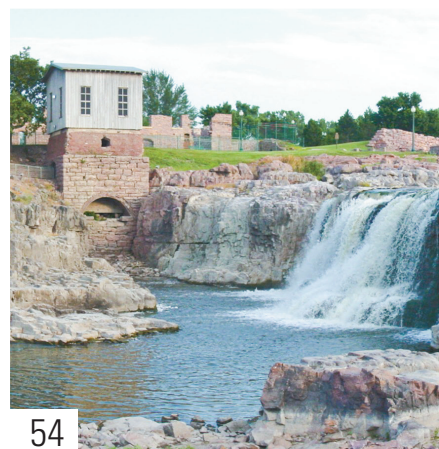


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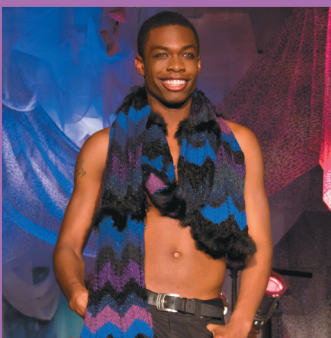
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Gays Ruin Rapture for Millions!

NO, I HAVE not actually heard that spin—yet—but in light of our Minnesota legislators' recent approval of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage to be put on the statewide ballot in November 2012, can it be far behind? A bigoted, antigay Creator pettishly denying bliss to 200,000,000 faithful?

Icing the cake was the GOP's invitation of antigay, hate-filled preacher Bradlee Dean to deliver the opening prayer in the Minnesota House chamber. Ironically, Minnesota sinks to this new low just as Focus on the Family President Jim Daly concedes that they've effectively lost the argument on same-sex marriage.

A friend who wrote senators protesting their proamendment votes received replies laden with boilerplate and misdirection: "I can certainly understand your frustration, because I share that same frustration"; "I want to be clear that this bill does not change a single state law or have a single impact on the existing civil rights of any Minnesotan"; and "A 'yes' vote on the bill means, yes, the legislator wants all Minnesotans to decide whether or not to amend the constitution."

Consider these last two assertions being applied to the 1960s civil rights struggles—we'd still have miscegenation laws on the books.

Speaking to *The Advocate*, Senator Al Franken stated, "Every Minnesotan deserves dignity and equal treatment under the law, and our state's same-sex couples should have the same right to marry as anyone else—period.... This amendment would do nothing more than write discrimination into our state's constitution and add to the barriers same-sex couples already face to the full recognition of their families."

Meanwhile, in Minnesota-South, Republican Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam ponders signing legislation prohibiting cities in the state from passing antidiscrimination laws protecting GLBT individuals.

Under current state law, it is not illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. In Nashville, however, it is, so the immediate effect would be to void the city's strong civil-rights ordinance.

I'm reminded of William Manchester's view of the Dark Ages in *A World Lit Only by Fire*: "a mélange of incessant warfare, corruption, lawlessness, obsession with strange myths, and an almost impenetrable mindlessness."

Note: Apocalypse preacher Harold Camping has bumped the Rapture date to October 21. Don't unpack. □



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Join Wanda at the Pride Parade!

ONE OF THE best things about being a drag queen is the chance to be in the Pride Parade every year. I mean, who loves a parade more than a drag queen? Waving and yelling at all the fabulous people along Hennepin Avenue from atop a drag queen-sized motor vehicle is just pure, unadulterated fun.

This year, I'm more excited than usual, because I'll be riding on an even more fabulous vehicle than ever before! If everything goes according to plan, I'll be surrounded by all sorts of delicious Wandita fanditas.

In fact, I need a whole boatload of people to help make my parade entry the bestest in all the land. That's where you come in. I am looking to fill my secret 2011 Wanda Wisdom Pridemobile with a bevy of hot hunks and sassy ladies. I need a posse of spectacular peeps to help me celebrate all the way down the parade route.

Think you've got what it takes to join the fun? Good! Participation is easy, cheesy. If you or someone you know wants to be a part of the spectacle on Pride Sunday, June 26, simply drop me an e-mail at <wanda@lavendermagazine.com> or <<http://facebook.com/wandawisdom>>.



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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All participants must be 18 or over, and will need to sign a safety waiver. I'll contact you shortly with all the details.

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Peterson Wins \$100 Lavender Facebook Drawing

ON JUNE 6, John Peterson received a check for \$100 from Lavender President and CEO Stephen J. Rocheford. Peterson won the drawing from Lavender Facebook "Likes" when the number recently reached 2,000.

Another drawing will take place when the number of Lavender Facebook "Likes" hits 3,000. So, get more people to "Like" our Facebook page, and do so yourself if you haven't already. You just might be our next lucky \$100 winner.



John Peterson (right) and Stephen J. Rocheford. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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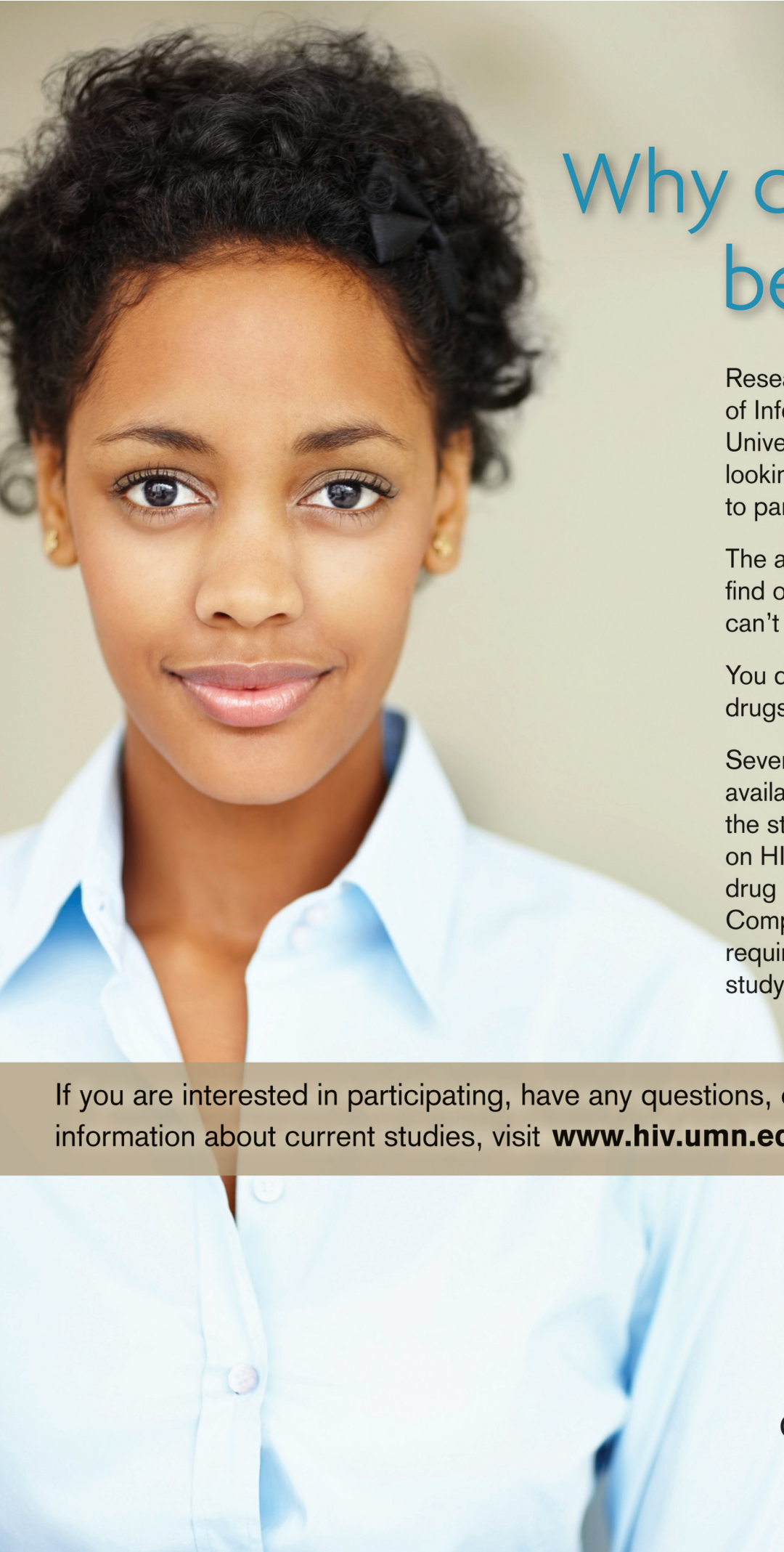
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LETTER |



SCARY COVER?

Who was the May 19 cover intended to appeal to? Certainly not lesbians...certainly not gay men. The cover is scary, gross, and baffling. It could qualify for a *Playboy* cover. I have never before been embarrassed to have the magazine displayed on the coffee table in my home. What's up?

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We Will Win This Fight!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to every single person who has spoken up on behalf of dignity, freedom, and equality for all Minnesota families.

It breaks my heart to report that in the final days of session, the Minnesota Legislature saw fit to pass a constitutional amendment ballot measure asking the voters of Minnesota to close the constitution, and equal protection of the law, to fellow citizens. This was a cynical play to a vocal minority, and a blatant effort to distract folks from their failure to solve our budget and economic crisis. This action will touch off an 18-month campaign of anger and bitterness fueled by millions of dollars pouring in from out of state. As we've seen in 29 other states, they will rely on caricatures, distortions, and fear to pass their measure.

But this letter is one of hope and optimism.

We will win this fight! We've only just begun, and we already have so much to show for our efforts.

Six major national mainstream public opinion polls in the last few months show a majority of America citizens are in favor of gay marriage.

A recent Twin Cities Star Tribune poll shows that 55 percent of Minnesotans plan to vote against the amendment. Only 39 percent are in favor. This is a complete reversal of a few years ago. The strongest support comes from young people. 18 months from now, even more young people will be of voting age.

Throughout the campaign to defeat this legislation, dozens and dozens of heroes have emerged—in the halls and in the chambers of our Capitol, and in every legislative district across the state. Our community and our allies have stepped forward in unprecedented ways. I have been deeply moved by the daily displays of courage, the incredible stories of commitment, love, and community, pouring our hearts out in order to connect, one human to another. Thousands rallied for days at the Capitol, and engaged their elected representatives directly. Min-

nesota saw our families and us in a way that many never have. We turned the tide, and swayed a lot of votes, but it was just not quite enough. But we won "forward." We built a movement.

The other side was cowed into silence, clearly ashamed of what they were doing, realizing too late that they were making a very grave political mistake. A sizable number of legislators were forced to go along, lacking the courage of their consciences. Both the cynics and the true believers among them knew any articulation of their reasons for pursuing this effort would only cause more Minnesotans to disagree with them. Their effort to distract folks from the real work of the session, jobs and the economy, backfired, and only served to highlight their failures and their overreach.

We are about to do the hardest thing that many of us have ever done in our lives. But we're up to it. We are a strong, resilient, loving people.

We will replace the scorched-earth campaign tactics of our opponents with stories of the love, commitment, and responsibility at the core of our families. The only thing this whole debate is about is whether people are

able to have access to the things that keep all families strong—economic, legal, and civil protections. We will build an incredible coalition of allies from across the political spectrum and from every sector of Minnesota life to help us reach the hearts and minds of every Minnesotan of every belief and political persuasion, across the countryside, in every hamlet, town, and city.


We are already building a grassroots campaign, and laying plans to raise the resources we need.

Many others are under similar attack: women, low-income families, the disabled, communities of color, new Americans, and labor. We will stand with them, and they will stand with us.

Our democracy is the ever-unfolding story of struggle to keep the promise of equality in the eyes of the law, everyone deserving of human rights, dignity, freedom, and opportunity. Democracy is very demanding of its citizens. The next 18 months will demand a lot from every single one of us: internal fortitude, time, money. We will have to take great risks in our personal and professional lives: coming out; telling our stories; asking our friends, families, neighbors, and coworkers for support. But in the end, we will have changed Minnesota for the better, and our democracy will have made a great advance.

We do this to honor those who have come before us and sacrificed so much for the life we enjoy, and we do this to leave a better state for all of those who follow.

Thank you again for your commitment to social justice and a better future.

You can sign on to the campaign to defeat this thing at www.minnesotansunitedforallfamilies.org. 

GLIMPSES

by George Holdgrafer



1

Reverend Eknes-Tucker Leaves All God's Children MCC

June 10 was Reverend Paul Eknes-Tucker's last Sunday at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church, where he had served as Senior Pastor since 2002. The congregation now will enter a period of Transitional Ministry during which an Interim Pastor will be appointed and a search will be conducted for a new Senior Pastor.

Reverend Paul Eknes-Tucker. Photo Courtesy of All God's Children MCC



2

Yang Is New PFund Foundation Program Officer

PFund Foundation recently hired Kayva Yang as its new Program Officer. Upon joining the staff on July 1, she will manage the foundation's grant-making, scholarship, and capacity-building programs. She has years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector, most recently as Gender and Justice Manager for CAPI, a social justice organization.

Kayva Yang. Photo Courtesy of PFund Foundation



3

North Country Bears Contribute to Minneapolis Movie Bears

The North Country Bears (NCB) recently contributed a check for \$2,000 to the Minneapolis Movie Bears Minnesota AIDS Walk Fund. Founded in 1993, NCB is a local nonprofit social organization with no membership dues that puts on events for bears, cubs, and admirers, as well as raising money for many different charities.

Photo by Garrett Manzi



4

Larsen Receives Third Award in Past Two Months

Minnesota Community Foundation and Social Venture Partners Minnesota (SVPm) will recognize John E. Larsen with the Engaged Philanthropist Award at SVPm's annual Engaged Philanthropy Conference on June 16. He also received the first PFund Foundation Power of Philanthropy Award on May 7, and a Lavender PRIDE Award on June 2.

John E. Larsen. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

It *Does* Get Better—and Better!

Interview with Jason Matheson

FOX 9's own Jason Matheson recently shared with *Lavender* a slice of his whirlwind life.

You've been called the "Twin Cities Ryan Seacrest" and the "Poor Man's Neal Patrick Harris." Who is Jason Matheson's "Jason Matheson"?

I'm just a 30-something nerd who loves *Star Wars*; adores listening to TV themes; battles weight; loves his family and friends; is outgoing/shy; often prefers a night at home with my significant other watching *Real Housewives* to a night on the town; and is lucky enough to have a great career.

What was life like in Michigan City, Indiana?

Growing up in Indiana definitely had its challenges, especially since I was gay. My mother was—and is—beyond amazing, but my dad and I weren't close at all. We lived in the same house, but we never bonded. He wanted a son who played sports, and was a "typical" boy. I was a son who turned his He-Man action figures into characters from *Knots Landing*.

And gay at school?

Junior high was the worst two years of my life. I was picked on, beaten up, and harassed almost daily. As the only "presumed gay," I was an easy target. On my first day, my main tormenter came up to me, spat in my face, and called me a fag. Another episode involved my gym teacher—a source of never-ending horror—who had me remove my shirt—and stand in the middle of the gym as the dodge-ball target—something I will never, ever forget. What's sadder is the fact that I share these stories with thousands of other kids—part of a not-so-exclusive club.



Jason Matheson. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Do you feel things have changed for GLBT youth today?

I'm in awe of young people who come out. I can't imagine the bravery that takes. But, there's a flip side: the recent rash of gay teen suicides. I was deeply, deeply affected by the death of Justin Aaberg last year. I couldn't stop thinking about him—what he must've gone through. I decided I had to say something.

You were able to use your show?

Justin's death prompted me. We were doing *The FOX 9 Buzz*, and I said to my cohost,

"I don't know what I'm gonna say, but hang with me, 'cause I have to say something."

I looked right at the camera, and spoke from my heart. It was unorthodox, but I needed to say something—hoping some kid out there, who maybe was experiencing what Justin went through, was watching, and could see that, yes, it *does* get better.

There was a shift in me that day. I haven't looked at my career or the extraordinary platform I have in the same way—it's a blessing, an opportunity to use this sometimes-goofy medium of TV/radio to do some good.



Tell us about your professional life—from 8 years old to FOX 9.

I remember standing on a rock in my grandpa's—Papaw's—yard, and doing a little “talk show.” I don't remember what I called it, what I talked about, but it was my chat show, *live* from Indiana!

From my earliest memory, I always knew what I wanted, and what I was meant to do. One time, I was getting beat up on the playground, and I had this feeling of: “It's OK... it's gonna get better. Your life will move way beyond this.”

I moved here in '97—didn't know a soul, didn't have a full-fledged plan. I got a job as an overnight dispatcher at WCCO, and stayed three years. In 2000, I joined Channel 9 as producer of *The Buzz*, hosted by Robyne Robinson; in 2009, a weekly entertainment show on FOX, *The Weekend Buzz*; then, a daily radio show on *myTalk 107.1*. I was recently named cohost of *The FOX 9 Buzz* and coanchor of *The FOX 9 Morning News*.

What's most satisfying in your career and your personal life?

The chance to be my authentic self *every*

day. Personally, I celebrate my amazing circle of close friends—they're family. Most important, my partner: best friend, biggest cheerleader, strongest supporter—my rock, who's not afraid to smack me back down to earth when I need it.

What would you tell youngsters today?

How I end my radio broadcast every day: If you're a kid who's being bullied, never forget you are loved, you are special, and you are perfect just the way you are. So, go out there, and be yourself, 'cause no one can tell you you're doing it wrong! ◻



Photos Courtesy of
Tangletown Gardens

SUCCULENTS ARE *HOT*!

IF I COULDN'T live without one hot plant group right now, it would be succulents. Their luxurious textures, shapes, and colors offer the bold structural look that no other plant group can. A plethora of succulent species thrives in containers, allowing for a great diversity of options to play with.

No better place to appreciate these qualities than at an intimate seating area where one can take it all in at close proximity. I like creating succulent gardens as virtual landscapes in miniature—perfect for outdoor dining tables, centerpieces, or seating areas.

Plus, who wouldn't like their low-input care and forgiveness for neglect. Under usual summer conditions, normal rainfall is enough to keep these drought-tolerant beauties happy—no additional irrigation needed. This makes long weekends to the cabin or out-of-town carefree without troubling a neighbor kid or friend to take care of your plants.

Succulents are easy, but need the sun in order to thrive. They absolutely love summer vacations outside by themselves, or mixed in with other succulents, basking in the sun. When winter nears, I

bring mine inside with me, placing them in the sunniest part of the house—helping to make even the longest Minnesota winters a bit more tolerable.

Just like any type of gardening, a bit of editing will keep your succulent collection in tip-top shape. If something begins to look a bit scrappy or overgrown, simply prune back the more aggressive plants to allow the little guys more space to grow, and replace nonperformers with something new.

I became addicted to collecting and growing succulents years ago. It's a healthy addiction I have no desire to give up. Thankfully, we add more and more varieties of succulents each year to our offerings at Tangletown Gardens to feed our own penchant for this fun plant group, while supplying our guests with virtually guaranteed carefree success when growing them. □

Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and Tangletown's Wise Acre Eatery on 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.



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Anne Phibbs Is Twin Cities Pride Grand Marshal

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA GLBTA PROGRAMS OFFICE DIRECTOR HAS WORKED FOR ALMOST 18 YEARS TO HELP GLBT COLLEGE STUDENTS AND STAFF.

THE GRAND MARSHAL for the 39th annual Twin Cities Pride celebration is Anne Phibbs, Director of the GLBTA Programs Office at the University of Minnesota.

Twin Cities Pride Executive Director Dot Belstler said recognition is long overdue for “the work she has done in the community and the work she does every day for students.”

Phibbs, who was GLBT Student Services Director at Metropolitan State University (MSU) until 2006, has worked for almost 18 years to help colleges better serve GLBT students and staff, while fostering inclusivity on campuses.

“My personal passion with Pride and the community is that we are reaching out to kids and young adults, and helping them find their place in the world,” Belstler noted. “Anne has been impactful. She empowers our young adults.”

Belstler said the nomination by Anne Hodson, a student of Phibbs’s at MSU, was heartfelt, and helped move the decision of the awards and community recognition committee.

Phibbs said she was honored and surprised to be nominated. She looks forward to helping realize the larger goals of the Pride celebration.

“All of us come together to create an active and progressive queer community,” Phibbs said. “Once a year, we take over Loring Park, and you get to see the breadth and depth of this community.”



Twin Cities Pride Grand Marshal Anne Phibbs (right) and Twin Cities Pride Executive Director Dot Belstler. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Phibbs said she hopes to shed light on the work done in higher education to aid the GLBT community, while emphasizing that Pride is a way to bring stigmatized groups together. She clarified that the event often goes beyond GLBT rights, and supports a broader social justice movement against homophobia, racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination.

“I hope people will come and take part in Pride, to be active in the community, and create a world that is more welcoming and affirming,” Phibbs stated. “For many people, this is the first time they see people who are like themselves and people who

feel like they can be accepted as they are.”

Phibbs, who has been an out lesbian for 31 years, is a mother of two children. She said she brings both her professional and personal experiences to the table.

In 2008, Phibbs’s professional achievements were acknowledged when she received the Minnesota College Personnel Association’s Voice of Inclusion Award, which recognizes individuals and programs on college campuses that create a more welcoming environment for students.

Phibbs has been an advocate for GLBT issues, and has helped to prevent harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification.

As its mission states, the Twin Cities Pride celebration gives the GLBT community and allies a chance to “commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.”

Phibbs explained that the event “is something we should be proud of as a community,” adding, “I am proud that we can keep it free of charge, and anyone can attend. That accessibility is important.”

On June 25, Phibbs will kick off the festival with a speech, and she will lead the parade the next day. □

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Lesbian Sues Police for Trying to "Turn Her Straight"

The *Daily Mail* reports that Amanda Booker, a lesbian, is suing Georgia's Bartow County Sheriff's Department for allegedly paying two evangelical Christians \$600 to "turn her straight." She says she was taken to the home of Chris and Donna McDowell for conversion therapy instead of a nearby hospital for a drug treatment program. Sheriff Clark Milsap told reporters from the *GA Voice*, "I haven't been served [with papers]. But, no ma'am, that is the most absurd thing I've ever heard in my life."

Catholic Charities In Rockford, Illinois, Ends Foster Care Over Gay Rights

Following the passage of civil union legislation in Illinois, which

went into effect June 1, Catholic Charities of Rockford, Illinois, announced it would stop providing foster care services. The legislation prohibits adoption agencies that receive state funding from discriminating against same-sex couples. Catholic Charities said it will transition the 350 or so cases to other private agencies, and terminate 58 employees. No other Catholic Charities offices in Illinois have yet said whether they will follow suit.

Brazil's President Suspends Sex Education Material Over "Antihomophobia" Kits

The BBC reports that Brazil's President, Dilma Rousseff, has suspended the distribution of sex education material that included content for gay and lesbian students, such as films containing scenes aimed at fighting ho-

mophobia. A spokesman for the President told the BBC that she "didn't like what she saw," and felt it did not offer an objective picture of homosexuality. Christian lawmakers said the material encouraged gay behavior.

Police in Grenada Arrest Man for Alleged Gay Sex

The Associated Press reports that police in the Caribbean island of Grenada have arrested a 41-year-old man for having sex with a 17-year-old. Although the age of consent in Grenada is 16, and the sex was consensual, gay sex is illegal. The penalty in most Caribbean nations for sex between men is up to 10 years in prison.

Assault on Gay Men in Portland Waterfront Treated as Hate Crime

The *Oregonian* reports that Port-

land police are investigating an attack in May on a gay couple. Brad Forkner and Christopher Rosevear were walking down the street holding hands. As the two approached a scenic overlook of the city, a group of unknown men attacked them. The assailants, who were in their 20s, brutally beat the men, then ran off. Forkner and Rosevear were ultimately treated for their wounds. Police have yet to apprehend any suspects.

Dayton Symbolically Vetoes Marriage Amendment

The *Star Tribune* reports that although it was a symbolic act, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton in May vetoed a constitutional amendment passed by the State Legislature that would ban same-sex marriage. "I do not have the power to prevent this divisive and destructive constitutional amendment from appearing on the ballot, in November 2012. The Legislature sent it to me in the form of a bill," Dayton wrote in a letter to legislative leaders. "Thus, symbolic as it may be, I am exercising my legal responsibility to either sign or veto it."

Lawyer Says Transgender Widow's Marriage To Be Voided

The Associated Press reports that according to attorney Edward Burwell, a Texas judge plans to void the marriage of transgender widow Nikki Araguz, which would deny her the death benefits of her firefighter husband who died battling a fire last year. Araguz says she was "devastated" by the decision.

Gay Troops To Hold Las Vegas Convention

→ The Huffington Post reports that a group of actively serving gay, lesbian, and bisexual military personnel is planning its first convention this fall in Las Vegas. The gathering is considered another sign that the process of lifting the military's ban on openly gay service members is almost complete. OutServe, an anonymous group of more than 3,000 gay troops, is planning the convention. The group hopes it will "provide an international forum on enhancing military readiness through encouraging an environment of respect with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity." OutServe recently conducted a survey that showed 78 percent of its members said they were already "out" to at least some people in their unit. □





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Christmas in June

Doing a biweekly column means you often end up writing about something that hasn't actually happened yet. My May 19 column, for example, about the Minnesota Legislature's passage of the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, was written prior to the House vote.

As both issues approached (the magazine and the vote), I found myself harboring at least a small glimmer of hope that perhaps House Republicans, upon seeing the public's growing frustration over their inability to pass a budget (AKA their job), would let the amendment die from neglect in favor of a last-minute budget deal. You probably won't be shocked to learn that I also believed in Santa Claus until I was 13 years old.

Instead, just two days before the end of this year's paralytic legislative session, with nothing substantial to show for their five months of taxpayer-funded employment, Minnesota's elected representatives somehow found enough time to write discrimination against gays and lesbians into the state's founding document.

Incidentally, that also makes us the first group of Minnesotans to have their second-class status specifically written into the constitution. Unless, of course, you include "aliens," who lost their right to vote in Minnesota in 1896. A joke about gay Martians is in there somewhere.

So it begins. Minnesota joins the ranks of 33 other states since 1998 that have waged costly, contentious, completely arbitrary battles over the status of same-sex relationships. Groups on both sides of the

issue are already forming and fundraising.

Between now and November 2012, prepare to be asked to sign countless petitions, Like umpteen Facebook pages, and view untold patience-trying YouTube videos. The culture war continues.

Perhaps one of the most frustrating aspects of this whole ridiculous mess is that our community is about to be asked to blow hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars to stave off a terror that does little more than perpetuate the status quo. As we know, gay marriage is already illegal in Minnesota.

So, even if we win, we're still second-class citizens. It's like spending \$500 to put new tires on a car with no engine. You're out \$500, and you still can't drive the damn thing. Adding insult to injury, thanks to some new research, we now know that even if you spend the \$500, you're probably not getting the tires.

According to a 2010 study by Dr. Patrick J. Egan of New York University, campaigns for same-sex ballot measures tend to have little or no effect on the final vote, regardless of the money spent.

"Did campaigns on same-sex marriage—which in some cases have involved millions of dollars of spending by either side—have an effect on voters' positions on these bal-

lot measures? A statistical analysis finds that vote intention tended to not change in one direction or another to a statistically significant degree over the course of the campaigns—both across and within states. Rather, voter sentiment tended to hold steady from beginning to end." (Egan, 2010)

Egan also found that polls "consistently underestimate voter opposition to legal recognition of same-sex couples"—to the tune of about 7 percentage points on average. With that in mind, recent polls showing a slight majority of Minnesotans opposed to a ban don't seem nearly as encouraging.

Great. Where does that leave us? The referendum is coming, the outlook isn't good, and no amount of money or clever campaigning appears likely to change the outcome. No Santa Claus, remember?

This is one more blinding example of why civil rights should never be put to a popularity contest.

A part of me thinks we should take the money we'd spend on an antiban campaign, and invest it in our community. Boycott the ban. Don't let hate-filled bigots and political opportunists scare us into spending our last few dollars, when it's not likely to change the outcome anyway.

The only problem is, we're Minnesotans. We believe in the impossible. We thrive despite our challenges. In the depth of a Minnesota winter, we know that, no matter how cold it gets, no matter how much snow falls on us, the sun will shine again. We know that no price is too great to stand up for what is right, despite the odds, despite the hardship.

There may not be a Santa Claus, but I still get gifts every Christmas. ■

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Identities Explored

EXHIBITION AT HENNES ART COMPANY CELEBRATES RANGE OF GLBT EXPERIENCE

THE LETTERS IN the acronym GLBT have been known to be limiting. For instance, being lesbian or bisexual, though central to one's life, is not the sum total of an individual. That's why *Identities Explored: A Celebration of Art from the GLBT Community* at Hennes Art Company has taken a more expansive and in-depth view into the nature of who we are. Company owner Greg Hennes opened his gallery just a year ago, and it has already become quite a hip destination.

Hennes says, "We knew we wanted to have a show that supported the GLBT community in some way. We wanted an event that would showcase the talents of GLBT artists more than just GLBT themes."

Curator Larry Miller shares, "First, I wanted a wide variety of art, media, and perspective to represent people across the spectrums of the Kinsey Scale, gender and gender identity, relationship status, and society in general. Second, I wanted working professional artists to be in the show. I wanted the work to come from the art community, as well as the GLBT community."

While searching, Miller visited Rachel Orman's studio, thinking he'd be drawn to her esteemed female nudes. Instead, he was attracted to work that depicted three individuals of different genders, and felt it was a great choice for celebrating bisexual communities.

Heavy Metal and trans icon Venus DeMars, who will DJ the Opening Night Reception on June 24, will also exhibit her spectrally luminous bic pen drawings on archival notebook drawing paper. She says, "I draw them during my down times while on tour, or whenever. Kind of a visual diary."

Both David Cook's book *Lemonade for the Lawnboy* and his dolls are part of the exhibit. James Michael Lawrence's *Marriage*, which juxtaposes tradition with newly won freedom, is inspired by his Iowa marriage to Peter Michael Wilson. Matthew Wettlaufer's touching *Two Soldiers* captures tenderness between military men.

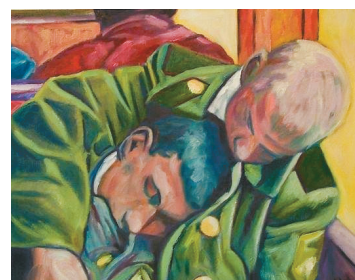


Chief Hole in the Day, by Christine Stark. Courtesy of Hennes Art Company

Christine Stark addresses mixed ancestry. She says her work reflects "the racist inheritance my grandmothers received, which was passed down to me through silence and ambivalence. And they are about the difficulties I experience when people—mostly outside the Native community—assume I'm not Native because of how I look, or don't believe me to be a 'real' Indian."

Connie M. Beckers, AKA The Goddess of Glass, has worked in the Tiffany style of stained glass for more than 15 years. Check out her round fused glass plate, *Cyclone Glass*, and a new piece titled *Clearly Abstract #5*. She is a 2009 winner of a Minneapolis Arts Commission Award for Community Involvement in Public Art.

Other artists featured are Perry Ingli, Nick Minenko, Sarah Ruehmann, Mike Welton, Zoe Keller, and Curator Miller. □



Two Soldiers, by Matthew Wettlaufer. Courtesy of Hennes Art Company

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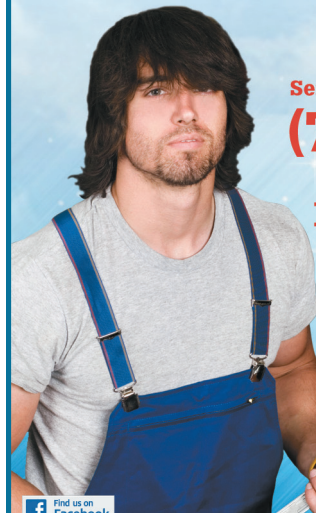
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Facing the Lens: Eadweard Mubridge's *Animal Locomotion Plate 519* (1887).
Courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Facing the Lens: Portraits of Photographers — Male vulnerability emanates vividly, as photographers themselves render their own self-portraits. Vance Gellert's ominous *The Ring* (1994) unsettles, with a boy in a boxing ring haunted by an aggressive trainer. Eadweard Mubridge's *Animal Locomotion Plate 519* (1887) has multiple nude images where he walks and throws a discus, defiant toward his prudish Victorian Age. For gay icon Robert Mapplethorpe, none of his signature bizarre eroticism is here, only a 1988 close-up of his eyes. **Through Aug. 28 • Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. • (888) 642-2787 • www.artsmia.org**



Panic. Photo Courtesy of Park Square Theatre

Panic — Alfred Hitchcock idolized feminine beauty, and *Lavender* writer Heidi Fellner is clearly that. She's also an accomplished actress appearing in the area premiere of *Panic*, the Edgar Award-winning homage to "the master of suspense" by Minnesotan Joseph Goodrich. Fellner teases when she shares, "It's a challenge for me to adopt the slightly stylized manner of Hitchcock's early 1960s films, but I think when I get my heels and hosiery, it will start to click." **Through July 10 • Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul • (651) 291-7005 • www.parksquaretheatre.org**

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels — Turning hit films into hit Broadway musicals is typically hit and miss. But Tony-winning composer David Yazbek always hits his mark. GLBT folks know him best for his marvelous *The Full Monty* (2001), but *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (2005) received 11 Tony nods. Both the musical and the 1988 film glory in multiple layers of deception on the fabulous French Riviera. Lori Maxwell directs Minneapolis Musical Theatre's area premiere, featuring Steven Meerdink and Joseph Bombard. **Through June 26 • Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 339-4944 • www.aboutmmt.org**



Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Courtesy of Laurie Etchen

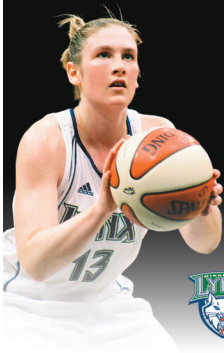
Awaken Absurdity — Taja Will uses movement to, as she puts it, "capture the improvisational and episodic nature of dreams. The movement embraces risk-taking, challenges heteronormative roles, and doesn't shy away from intimacy or exhaustion. It's a world that straddles the line between the realistic and the imaginary, and reveals both desire and fear." San Francisco Bay Area performer Vitali Kononov joins Will. You might see two women locking lips and two men nuzzling. **Through June 19 • Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls. • (612) 870-0309 • www.redeyetheater.org** ➔



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Beyond Therapy — Bisexuality is frequently and reflexively attacked by those who insist that sexual identity must be either inextricably straight or inextricably gay. Therefore, society's way of analyzing and judging makes bisexuality and bisexuals targets for those on the political left and right who would promote compulsory monogamy.

In 1980, playwright Christopher Durang addressed this biphobic prejudice in *Beyond Therapy*. It actually tackles bisexual issues better than a lot of the bisexual-activist rhetoric that gets bandied about.

Director Craig Johnson points out, "*Beyond Therapy* is most certainly a comedy, but there are undercurrents of pain and confusion, as all three characters wrestle with their personal identities and what it means to carve out a lasting relationship."

Actor David Beukema shares, "The wonderful thing about playing Bruce is that his bisexuality, in his own words, makes him 'open to all experiences.' It's perfectly natural for Bruce to have deep affection and attraction for both Prudence [Emma Gochberg], the woman he's dating, and Bob [Nathan Suprenant], the lover with whom he lives. He doesn't see why one should

have to choose, and he lives his entire life by this philosophy: He is an open book, and open to everything in life. It's incredibly refreshing to play a character that has such a positive outlook on life. And, of course, the conflict comes when other characters think that outlook means he's crazy."

Beukema shone last year as the closeted manager of the Beatles, Brian Epstein, in Theatre Pro Rata's *Traveling Light*. He was riveting as a man stuck in shame, self-loathing, and fear of mortally wounding his career. But now, he plays someone who gets healthier by unleashing his inner bi. Hooray! **Through June 26 • Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. • (612) 333-3010 • www.TheatreintheRound.org**

[Theater]



The Maids. Photo by Jennifer Harrington

The Maids — Gay literary paragon Jean Genet's *The Maids* is a crossgender milestone. Jennifer Harrington, who directs TheGonzoGroupTheatre revival, muses, "By having women play the parts, we would lose the artifice. The play is all about artifice. It is about playing the roles society has designated for us every day of our lives and the desire to break from them. So, we have men playing at being women, maids playing at being their madame, and madame playing at having a legitimate relationship. All the characters play at something that they are not." This production features Luke Weber, Brandon Wickre, and Michael Ooms. **Through June 25 • Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. W., St. Paul • (651) 330-2404 • www.gonzotheatre.org**

[Theater]

I Like You — Director Laura Holway combines dance, video, and song to create what she calls "a study in intimacy. It started with four people two years ago, all of whom were strangers to one another: Lindsay Marcy, Peter Hogan, Drew Hammond, and Maggie Smith. I found each of these people to be interesting performers and people, and thought I'd like to explore the topic of connection and intimacy with them." *I Like You* theatrically re-creates that exploration. **June 23-26 • Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls. • (612) 870-0309 • www.redeyetheater.org** □



I Like You. Photo by Ayve Alexandres

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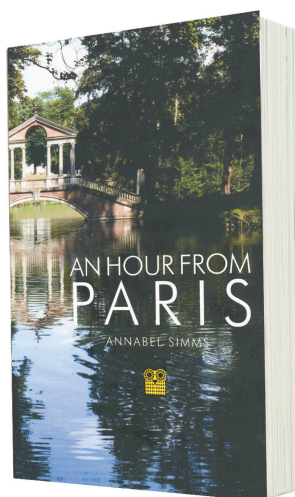


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An Hour From Paris

Annabel Simms

Author Simms has written a portable jewel of a book, with a specific audience clearly in mind, and 20 specific destinations throughout the Ile de France to be savored. Her intended reader is “curious about everything”—the present, the past—willing to forego the automobile for train and foot, and “happiest when exploring off the beaten path.” You might, for instance, take a train to the station just ahead of your intended destination, and have a lovely several-kilometer walk to your target. At La Guinguette Auvergnate, you dine overlooking the Seine, while fellow diners dance to accordion airs à la Renoir, and Sunday lunch stretches to 5 PM. Accompanying photos, maps, and train routes make this lovely volume a perfect travel companion.

Pallas Athene

\$23.95



Future Beauty: 30 Years of Japanese Fashion

Ed. by Catherine Ince and Rie Nii

Japan, known for centuries for innovative fabric design, burst upon the international fashion scene around 1981 with Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons, and Yohi Yamamoto, who debuted in Paris. This splendidly illustrated volume shows the flowering of Japanese fashion and its ingenuity, with references to cultural forms such as manga, anime, and video games. The text entices with quotes like: “Fashion is involved in a cutthroat battle with the passage of time. From the moment it enters the world, it is already a thing of the past.” Designers and styles are detailed, including the amazing A-POC (a piece of cloth) technique in which an entire outfit is knit—and later cut out from—lines on a single piece of cloth. Astounding!

Merrell
\$59.95



Gay Men and Substance Abuse: A Basic Guide for Addicts and Those Who Care for Them

Michael Shelton, MS, CAC

Author Shelton works with the sensible premise that existing protocols for substance abuse will not be effective for gay men, because “the vast majority of research...has been on straight men; we are still learning about the special needs of gay men in recovery.” Starting with the importance of distinguishing between “use” and “abuse,” and the distinctions among recreational use, substance abuse, and addiction, he writes clearly and logically about options available, as the title proclaims, to the addicts and those who care for them. The latter, Shelton emphasizes, do not always know how to go about it, nor in the case of some professionals and family members do they want to deal with the “gay” aspect of the addiction.

Hazelden
\$14.95



Like Lovers Do

Lori Lake

Local writer Lake introduces Kennie McClain, no police officer like Dez Reilly and Jaylynn Savage of her previous detective novels, *Gun Shy*, *Under the Gun*, and *Have Gun Will Travel*, but a security guard in—and secret owner of—a Portland apartment building. Kennie, who hasn’t recovered from the death three years ago of her partner, spends time rehabbing, restoring, and longing for—something...someone. Enter Lily Gordon, gorgeous internationally known artist who dwells in the Allen Arms’s empyrean penthouse. Sparks fly, then Kennie is unceremoniously dumped. (Or is she?) Enter Max, a homeless teen Kennie saves from a beating, and takes in. Enter Kennie’s sibs from Hell and a disputed will. Lake lavishes somethings and someones with a generous hand in this satisfying tale. □

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TWIN CITIES GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS *LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOYS!*



IF YOU MISSED last year's nearly sold-out *ExtrABBaganza!*, you won't want to miss this year's Pride concert. Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus (TCGMC) presents *Let's Hear it for the Boys! The Ultimate Boy Band Review* June 24-25.

Dr. Stan Hill, TCGMC Artistic Director, says, "We have 65 different bands of boys represented in this concert. We have spanned the decades from the 1950s to the 2000s and everything in between to find our audience's favorite songs. You'll be screaming like its Beatlemania all over again!"

Let's Hear it for the Boys celebrates the best in popular music from the 1950s to the 2000s created by boy bands. You'll swoon to music by Powerhouse Boy Bands (Kiss, Journey, and Queen); Popular Duos (Righteous Brothers, Seals & Crofts, Hall & Oates, Air Supply, Wham, and Erasure); Brit Boys (The Beatles, Tears for Fears, Duran Duran, and Depeche Mode);

R&B Boys (Temptations, Four Tops, and The Commodores); and recent boy-band sensations (Hanson, New Edition, Boyz II Men, Jonas Brothers, Backstreet Boys, and 'N Sync).

Tickets are now on sale through the University of Minnesota Arts Ticket Office.

Founded in 1981, TCGMC is an award-winning chorus that has built a solid reputation for musical excellence and dynamic programming. Having grown to be the fourth-largest gay men's chorus in the country, it is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA). TCGMC has been under the direction of Artistic Director Dr. Stan Hill since 2000.

TCGMC was formed to build community through music, while pursuing musical excellence in performance. In addition, the chorus seeks to provide its members with rewarding musical experiences, and to promote social exchange among a group of men with a common purpose. As an organization that celebrates diversity, and uses music as a way to transform, educate, and heal, TCGMC works toward the elimination of homophobia and intolerance through community outreach.

TCGMC recognizes Lavender Magazine as its official GLBT media sponsor during its holiday concerts. □

Let's Hear it for the Boys!

June 24-25

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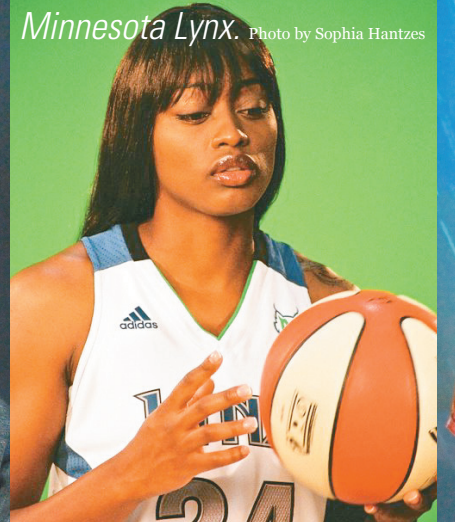
JUNE-JULY

CALENDAR

Beyond Therapy. Photo Copyright Act One, Too, Ltd



Minnesota Lynx. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.
Photo by Lauries Etchen

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Note: This calendar includes events formerly in the Bar Calendar.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

25th Anniversary Celebration. 1 PM. Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie. RSVP to <nicky.simon-burton@pride-institute.com>. (612) 267-9371.

Awaken Absurdity. Through June 19. Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls. (612) 870-0309. <www.redeyetheater.org>.

Toxie Awards California Screening/ Minnesota Toxie Awards. 5:15 PM. Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. <www.healthylegacy.org>

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Alexandra Billings in Concert. Through June 18. Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 353-6781. <www.loringtheater.com>.

Beginners. Opens today. Uptown Theatre, 2906 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 392-0402. <www.landmark-theatres.com/market/minneapolis/uptowntheatre.htm>.

A Copper Forest—Knitted By Hand. Through July 12. Susan Hensel Gallery, 3441 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 722-2324. <www.susanhsengallery.com>.

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Through Aug. 27. Minnesota Centennial Showboat, Harriet Island, St. Paul. (651) 227-1100. <www.showboat.umn.edu>.

Dragged Out. 9:30 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

Gender-Neutral Contra Dance. 7:30 PM. Tapestry Folkdance Center, 3748 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. (612) 722-2914. <www.tapestryfolkdance.org>.

Hip-Hop Against Homophobia. Through June 18. Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 724-6273. <www.patrickscabaret.org>.

Panic. Through July 10. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

Pride Night with the Minnesota Lynx. Lavender Reader Special. 7 PM. Target Center, Mpls. Carley Knox @ (612) 673-8408 or <knox@lynxbasketball.com>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Lowry Lab Does Drag. 8 PM. Lowry Lab Theatre, 350 St. Peter St., St. Paul. (651) 222-0149. <www.theaterproject.org>.

Minnesota Red Ribbon Ride Day On the Ride FriendRaiser. (612) 822-2110. <www.redribbonride.org>.

Pride Boat Cruise. Boarding 12:30 PM. Departing 1 PM. Stillwater, MN, on St. Croix River. <www.tcpride.org>.

Stone Arch Festival of the Arts. Through June 19. Minneapolis Riverfront District, St. Anthony Main, Mpls. <www.stonearchfestival.com>.

Summer Kickoff Barbecue. 4 PM. Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. <www.intermediaarts.org>.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Family Equality Council Pride Family Picnic. 11 AM. East Picnic Pavilions, Como Park, St. Paul. <www.familyequalitycouncil.org>.

Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games. Taft Park No. 1, Richfield: TC Kings vs. Cedar Inn, 3:30 PM; Cedar Inn vs. Foxy Boxes In Soxes, 4:35 PM; Full Spectrum vs. Foxy Boxes In Soxes, 5:40 PM; Where My Pitches

At! vs. The Hassle, 6:45 PM. Como Park, St. Paul: I'd Hit That vs. Sweet Nuggets, 11:30 AM; Players vs. OctoFusion, 12:40 PM; Coale's Campers vs. BLUSH, 1:45 PM.

Singles Pool Tournament. 4 PM. 19 W. 15th St., Mpls. (612) 871-5553.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Center Stage for Marriage Equality. Benefits Minnesotans United for All Families. 7:30 PM. Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 353-6781. <www.loringtheater.com>.

JP Fitzgibbons. Zeitgeist Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St., St. Paul. (800) 838-3006. <www.brownpapertickets.com/event/167984>.

Midwest Hoedown. 7:30 PM. Minnesota Freedom Band @ Lake Harriet Band Shell, 4135 W. Lake Harriet Blvd., Mpls. <www.mnfreedomband.org>.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Craig Moreau Chelsea Boy Reading. 7 PM. Wilde Roast Café, 65 Main St. SE, Mpls. (612) 331-4544. <www.wilderoastcafe.com>.

Queer Voices. 7 PM. Pohlad Hall, Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

University of Wisconsin Press Authors Will Fellows (Gay Bar) & Bronson Lemer (The Last Deployment). 7:30 PM. Magers & Quinn, 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-4611. <www.magersandquinn.com>.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

A Concert For Pride: Galactic Cowboy Orchestra and Guests. 7 PM @ Wesley Church, 101 E. Grant St., Mpls. 9:30 PM @ Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

I Like You. Through June 26. Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls. (612) 870-0309. <www.redeyetheater.org>.

Itasca GLBTA Alliance Pride Picnic. 5 PM. Veteran's Memorial Park, Grand Rapids, MN. <www.itascaalliance.org>.

Lavender's Pride Thursday. 5:30 PM. Thom Pham's Wondrous Asian Kitchen, 533 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. <www.lavendermagazine.com/summerofpride>.

Miss City of the Lakes Pageant. Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-7755. <www.gay90s.com>.

Miss Twin Cities Gay Latina/Miss Gay Rodeo Pageant. 9 PM. El Nuevo Rodeo, 2709 E. Lake St., Mpls. (612) 728-0101. www.

Queer Twin Cities. 6 PM. Pohlad Hall, Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

Soul Friday (On Thursday). 9 PM. Hell's Kitchen, 80 S. 9th St., Mpls. (612) 332-4700. <www.HellsKitchenInc.com>.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Fruit Bowl. 6 PM. Memory Lanes, 2520 26th Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 206-3180. <www.rainbowhealth.org>.

Identities Explored: A Celebration of Art from the GLBT Community. Opening Night Reception, June 24, 6 PM. Back Dock Party, June 25-26, 10 AM-5 PM. Exhibition continues through July 30. Hennes Art Company, 1607 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 436-2077. <www.hennesart.com>.

Let's Hear it for the Boys! Through June 25. Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus @ Ted Mann Concert Hall, Univ. of Minn. West Bank, 2128 4th St. S., Mpls. (612) 624-2345. <www.tcgmc.org>.

I Like You.

Photo by Ayve Alexandres



Ovo.

Photo Courtesy of Cirque du Soleil

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Mass Portrait: New Work by Anna Tsantir and Daniel Luedtke. Through July 23. Opening reception June 24, 6 PM. X Y and Z Gallery, 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. <www.thexyandz.com>.

Official Twin Cities Pride Block Party. 6 PM. Loring Kitchen & Bar, 1359 Willow St. S., Mpls. (612) 843-0400. <www.LoringKitchen.com>.

Preserving the Past. 6:30 PM. Quatrefoil Library, 1619 Dayton Ave., St. Paul. (651) 641-0969. <www.qlibrary.org>.

Pride Foam Party. Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-7755. <www.gay90s.com>.

Uptown Pride Block Party. 6 PM. W. Lake St. & Bryant Ave. S., Mpls. <www.uptownprideblockparty.com>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Elegance. 9:30 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

Grown and Sexy. 9 PM. Hell's Kitchen, 80 S. 9th St., Mpls. (612) 332-4700. <www.HellsKitchenInc.com>.

Pride in Concert. 5:30 PM. Loring Park, Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

Twin Cities Pride Festival. 10 AM-10 PM. Loring Park, Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade. 11 AM. Starts at 3rd St. along Hennepin Ave., Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

Lavender's Bitch-N-Brunch. Portion of proceeds benefits The Aliveness Project. 9 AM. Seven Steakhouse, Rooftop Lounge, 700 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. <www.lavendermagazine.com/summerofpride>.

endermagazine.com/summerofpride>.

Memoirs of a GAYsha. 10 AM. Thom Pham's Wondrous Azian Kitchen, 533 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 338-1479. <www.wondrousmpls.com>.

Minnesota Lynx Home Game: Lynx vs. Fever. 6 PM. Target Center, Mpls. <www.wnba.com/lynx>.

Pride Brunch. 9 AM. Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-7755. <www.gay90s.com>.

Pride Brunch. 5 PM. Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-7755. <www.gay90s.com>.

Rainbow Run. 9 AM. Stone Arch Bridge to Loring Park via Pride Parade route from 3rd St. along Hennepin Ave., Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

Twin Cities Pride Festival. 10 AM-6 PM. Loring Park, Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

CONvergence 2011 (Science Fiction). Through July 3. Sheraton Bloomington Minneapolis South, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington. <www.convergence-con.org>.

Local Author Event: Jessie Chandler. 6:30 PM. Valley Booksellers, 217 Main St. N., Stillwater. <www.jessiechandler.com>.

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Lip Service. 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

ONGOING

Alexa Horochowski: Cloud Cave. Through July 4. Burnet Art Gallery,

Le Méridien Chambers Minneapolis, 901 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 767-6900. <www.lemeridienchambers.com>.

Beyond Therapy. Through June 26. Theatre in the Round Players, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-3010. <www.theatreintheround.org>.

David Malcolm Scott: Minnesota/West. Through July 9. Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls. (612) 332-2978. <www.ninabliesegallery.com>.

Dinner with the Tsars: Imperial Russian Porcelain. Through Aug. 7. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <www.tmore.org>.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Through June 26. Minneapolis Musical Theatre @ Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.aboutmmt.org>.

Esperanza. Through July 28. Gordon Parks Gallery, Library and Learning Center, Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St., St. Paul. Erica at (651) 793-1631. <Erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu>.

Facing the Lens: Portraits of Photographers. Through Aug. 28. Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. (888) 642-2787. <www.artsmia.org>.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Through July 24. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <www.jungletheater.com>.

God of Carnage. Through Aug. 7. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

Guys and Dolls. Through June 26. Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <www.ordway.org>.

The Marvelous Wondrettes. Through July 24. Plymouth Playhouse, 2705 Annapolis Ln. N., Plymouth. (763) 553-1600. <www.plymouthplayhouse.com>.

The Maids. Through June 25. TheGonzoGroupTheatre @ Gremelin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. W., Mpls. (651) 330-2404. <www.gonzotheatre.org>.

Nan Golden's The Ballad of Sexual Dependency. Through Oct. 16. Part of exhibition *Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and the Camera Since 1870*. Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (712) 375-7600. <www.walkerart.org>.

On the Town. Through June 19. Skylark Opera @ E.M. Pearson Theatre, Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave., St. Paul. (612) 343-3390. <www.ticketworks.com>.

Ovo. Through June 19. Cirque du Soleil @ Mall of America, Bloomington. <www.cirquedusoleil.com/ovo>.

Sarah Palin's Minnesota; or Hindsight is 2011. Through June 24. Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 332-6620. <www.bravenewworkshop.com>.

Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art. Through Sept. 15. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <www.tmore.org>.

Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts. Through June 17. United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 3000 5th St. NW, New Brighton. (651) 255-6138. <www.unitedseminary.edu>.

That Face. Through June 18. 20% Theatre Twin Cities @ Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. (612) 227-1188. <www.tctwentypercent.org>.

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. Through Sept. 5. Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. (651) 221-9444. <www.smm.org>.

The Vagabond King. Through June 18. Skylark Opera @ E.M. Pearson Theatre, Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave., St. Paul. (612) 343-3390. <www.ticketworks.com>.



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BRANDON

WHO

Brandon

WHAT

Recipe: Smartass

1 oz. Absolut Vodka
1 oz. Southern Comfort
1 oz. Tequila
1 oz. Raspberry Liqueur
1 oz. Triple Sec
Splash of Cranberry Juice
Splash of Pineapple Juice
Dash of Sprite
Mix ingredients in shaker
Strain over ice in a tall glass
Top with a cherry

WHEN

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Wilde Roast Café Presents Moreau Reading from *Chelsea Boy*

POET CRAIG MOREAU will read from his debut collection of poems, *Chelsea Boy*, published by Chelsea Station Editions, on June 21, 7 PM, at Wilde Roast Café, Minneapolis.

Part memoir, part history, *Chelsea Boy*, explores the author's transformation from small-town Iowa boy to big-city Chelsea Boy. Inspired by the famous Manhattan gayborhood and its vibrant night-life, Moreau's poems explore the pleasures and complexities of a resilient community.

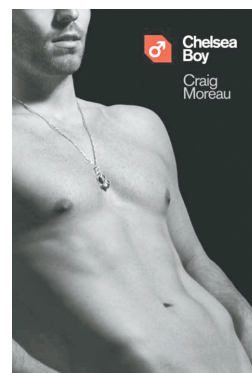
Writer Michael Cunningham says, "Craig Moreau's *Chelsea Boy* is a true original, in many senses of the word. It's simultaneously a serious collection, and a book of poetry intended for readers who don't usually read poetry at all. Moreau is a passionate, gifted poet, and with *Chelsea Boy*, he enters terrain far too seldom poetically traversed."

Poet Tom Healy shares, "I never had the body or the stamina to be a Chelsea Boy. But Craig Moreau obviously has both...and the rare lyrical talent to give voice to a shirts-off, drugs-kicked-in world of sex, sadness, beauty, and truths that are sometimes fabulous,

sometimes shameless, sometimes still deadly. Here is a full parade of the wicked and the pretty, ghosts and the living, the self-absorbed and the quietly self-knowing—all dancing to Moreau's spare, honest, and seductive music." □

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Loring Kitchen & Bar Hosts Official Twin Cities Pride Block Party for Its 30th Anniversary

EVER SINCE TWIN Cities Pride organizers went to court in order to be able to hold the first Twin Cities Pride Block Party in 1981, the event each year has drawn huge crowds. This year marks its 30th anniversary.

Loring Kitchen & Bar is hosting the 2011 Official Twin Cities Pride Block Party on June 24. It's located conveniently across from Loring Park at 1359 Willow Street South, Minneapolis. The bands start playing at 6 PM. Headliners are Sick of Sarah and Wrecked Wheelhouse.

The festivities continue on June 26. Follow the Loring Kitchen & Bar's Pride Parade Float back after the parade, when the bands begin playing. Sick of Sarah reprises as headliner, along with DJ AJent Orange. ▣

Official Twin Cities Pride Block Party

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Sick of Sarah. Photo Courtesy of Big Hassle Media

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CARIBE

The weekend brunch features perfect dishes created by Puerto Rican native Tony Panelli.

It was on one of those awful, damp, blurry days in May that I went to Caribe. The restaurant is surrounded by little vintage shops and the like, but compared to its neighbors, Caribe's fantastically cheery exterior almost made me wonder if I was hallucinating. Or, perhaps it was some sort of tropical Narnia, and no one except foodies could see it. Once inside, I favored the latter. It's almost impossible *not* to be happy here. The elaborately painted walls and bright fiesta ware transport you to some far-off Caribbean island

where amazing food is a birthright, and the servers burst into song whenever anyone orders Sangria.

Puerto Rican native Tony Panelli dislikes the title of Chef—associating the term with hierarchy and ego—and prefers instead the whimsical “Grand Poobah.”

I’d be happy calling him Maestro, The Egg Man, or Mr. Wizard, as long as he’ll continue to cook brunch on weekends, beginning with the Pan de Majorca (\$3.50). It is a large, traditional Puerto Rican sweet roll that is either lightly toasted or grilled with butter (as it is served at Caribe), or sliced and used to sandwich ham and cheese. Sweetened with a judicious dusting of powdered sugar, the dough is rich but light, and dangerously addictive. I’d suggest splitting one with a friend who is good about sharing.

We couldn’t resist the siren song of a refreshing white wine Sangria, but we also tried the Pomegranate and Blueberry Mimosa, which was pleasantly tart. Some horrible person made up a rule about imbibing alcohol before a certain hour. While I understand the logic behind the taboo, Caribe is one of those places where you should break the rules. Both the sangria and the mimosa were delicate and summery, and went with everything. Just try, try, try to pace yourself. It’s a difficult thing to do when the cocktails are this good.

If neither of the above seems tempting, the Belgian Rodenbach (\$12) offers yet another reason to be naughty before Noon. The large bottle can be shared, and the red beer is perfect for brunch. Fragrant with cherries, but dry on the finish, it seems to have more in common with a semidry sparkling rosé than a beer.

The Coconut French Toast (\$9) and the Caribe Eggs Benedict (\$9) couldn’t be more dissimilar—the only similarity is in their degree of perfection. Most restaurants offer brunch out of necessity, as opposed to culinary inspiration, but Panelli’s brunch is simply that—inspired. His French toast begins as a thick slice of ciabatta, and is prepared in the traditional way. Before it heads to your table, however, it is also drizzled with coconut cream, sprinkled with roasted coconut flakes, and topped with a dainty dollop of whipped cream. In any other restaurant, this dish’s arrival would be greeted with howls of envy from everyone else at your table. At Caribe, every dish we tried was easily its equal.



(Facing page, from left) Dining area; Pomegranate and Blueberry Mimosa. (This page) Coconut French Toast (above); Caribe Eggs Benedict. Photos by Mike Hnida



If you’re looking for something more unique, order the Eggs Benedict. Remember when I joked about calling Panelli the Egg Man? Cooking something as simple and mundane as an egg may be easy to learn, but not everyone masters the *perfect* poached egg. Panelli has, and it makes an incredible difference in the texture. In this dish, poached eggs are perched atop curried chickpeas, sautéed spinach, sweet potato, and tomatoes. Indian-style roti, which forms the base of the dish, helps soak up the incredibly fragrant Creole hollandaise ladled on top. Caribbean food sometimes has a false reputation for being spicy. This dish was actually very mild, but if you want a little more heat, housemade pique (a Puerto Rican-style hot sauce) is available.

If you’re looking for something a little more conventional, order the Jibarito (\$6), which tucks adobo-seasoned fried eggs, smoked ham, and cheddar cheese into sobao bread, and includes a side of house fries. The sandwich may be simple, but the quality of

each ingredient is what makes it exceptional.

Panelli also whipped up a dish of poached eggs and tangy, slightly sweet crab rundown stew (coconut, carrots, onions, peppers, pumpkin, and potatoes) over plantain tostones. A similar dish is featured on the menu with fried breadfruit, but because the quality of imported breadfruit is unreliable now and then, the kitchen often makes do without it, rather than lowering its standards.

It was such a pity to venture back into my dreary Minnesotan reality, but a relief to know Caribe exists whenever I need to escape. Or...*almost* whenever. While both lunch and dinner are served Tuesday through Sunday, brunch is only available on weekends. ▣

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[**THE ANCHOR FISH & CHIPS**] by Carla Waldemar

Never mind the leprechauns and shamrocks. What I miss most about Ireland is the fish and chips. Well, after the free-flowing Guinness, and the friendly, civil manners. At cafés in Ireland, I'm called "Madam" or "Lassie." Here, it's "Party of four." I miss the waitstaff who greet you with, "You're very welcome here."



↓ "You're very welcome here," Jenny said, as she seated us at the counter of The Anchor, the Gaelic anchor of Northeast Minneapolis. It was drizzling outside. Perfect.

The tables were loud and crowded. New arrivals thronged the door, waiting with adopted-Irish patience for their chance

at a seat (no reservations taken). The patterned tin ceiling and burgundy walls shook with cries of "Slainte!" All we lacked was a Squeezebox and a fiddle. Well, they couldn't have squeezed in, anyway.

The fryer was making all the sweet music we needed. From it emerged the fish and chips of my dreams. Although we also

tried a couple of other dishes just to say we did, the fish and chips is The One to Order—the ultimate experience, served scorching hot, as God intended, and not a bit greasy.

Perfection like this involves some tricks: the clean taste of light, fresh cooking oil; and high heat, so it doesn't soak into the batter. Check.

The batter itself must be filmy as a negligee in order to turn crispy in mere seconds, levitating into alluring little bobbles over the fish it caresses. Check again.

As for the fillet itself, you've gotta have cod: thick-cut, pearly-white, moist, and tender as you please, bearing a flavor so subtle, you hardly know it's there. The Anchor, specifying fish wild-caught in Alaska, rules again.

Same story for the fries—er, chips. The kitchen's hand-cut spuds form a burly thicket on your plate. Add catsup if you must, but a spritz of white vinegar is the standard Irish condiment.

Grab a beer, and you're good to go. Sure, Bell's, Harp, and Summit are on tap, and very fine beers they are, but Guinness is the mother's milk of Dublin.

Those same substantial chips come with a most excellent burger, too, which started life eating grass at 1000 Hills Farm.

"Ridiculously good," the menu claims, and the Irish wouldn't lie to ye, would they? Add a slice of Irish Cheddar if you're so inclined, and



Fish and Chips.

can spare another dollar. (Most entrees are a mere \$8.50.) Add mushy peas, too, if you really must, but that's getting too authentic for our picky palates.

The shepherd's pie was as ordinary (read: boring) as it always is—simply beef-carrot-gravy hot dish smothered in lackluster mashed potatoes.

To combat the high-octane ingredients, stick around for a full Irish breakfast on weekends. □

The Anchor Fish & Chips
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The Anchor Fish & Chips. Photos by Hubert Bonnet

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The Vultures

I'M WRITING TO you from a crowded restaurant, and Vultures are circling for my seat.

I'm trying to avoid eye contact, because all I have is half a cookie—hardly enough to justify my still taking up this booth, especially since I'm more engrossed in my laptop.

They could sit with me if they wanted to. Of course, they wouldn't know that unless I invited them, and I don't want to do that, because I'd rather write for you than talk to them.

OK, so I'll just pretend I'm oblivious to how busy it is here, and keep my seat.

No, that's rude. Hang on a sec.

(Recess)

Hello, empty coffee shop and cute barista.

Much better.

So, speaking of Vultures: The Bar Vulture is that guy at the bar who hunts for open-to-conversation prey, and buy drinks in hopes of impairing your judgment enough to take you home.

I admit that I take the bait—that oh-so-glamorous free Red Bull-vodka is hard to pass up. What can I say? I love meeting new people—especially ones as interesting as Vultures—and it takes a special kind of annoying for me to turn down a drink.

Inevitably, some Vultures cross the line. What else would you expect?

The secret is having an escape route. I've played around with a few methods, but I think I've found one that works: Freak 'em out.

After I had chatted with a Vulture for 15 minutes at a bar recently, my friend, DJ SoKo (awesome), started his set for the night. I'd never heard him spin before, so I wanted to give him my undivided attention, at least for the beginning.

The Vulture did not. He hadn't processed my earlier comment: "Hey, my friend's starting. It was great meeting you! I'm sure I'll see you around sometime."

Nor did he understand my next comments: "Yeah, so my friend is playing now—I can't really talk anymore"; or "For real—please leave me alone for five minutes."

"Listen," I said finally, "I have to tell you something if you want this to go any further....I have this weird fetish."

The Vulture adjusted himself to exhibit his interest: "Yeah?"

I said, "I'm *really* into clown costumes."

The Vulture suddenly saw one of his friends, and disappeared into the night.

Bam! □



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LISA GOODMAN DOESN'T GIVE A PARTY —SHE MAKES A *HAPPENING*

"It's not just a birthday party or fundraiser—when [Minneapolis City Council Member] Lisa Goodman entertains, it's a *happening*," local attorney Amy Johnson says.

Goodman's late-winter birthday parties and summer fundraisers have a reputation as the best in town. Her philosophy of "great food, free drinks, and *no* speeches" has made the soirées successful throughout her political career.

Faces in the crowd may include fellow City Council members, CEOs, developers, mayors, and a US senator or two. Even the fundraisers are not really work events for Goodman, so everyone sets aside politics, and grabs a cocktail.



Lisa Goodman (center) with party guests. Photo Courtesy of Lisa Goodman

Venues for Goodman parties have included Mount Curve mansions and Kenwood homes overlooking Lake of the Isles. Some are so happy to host the parties that a few have even remodeled their spaces to accommodate the guests. One fundraiser had a backdrop of a marble-lined pool with dancing water jets, a feature Caesar's Palace would be proud of.

With hundreds of guests at the fundraisers, a team of valets is always at the curb, and someone just inside the door offers a drink and welcomes guests into the party.

Goodman skips the speeches, preferring to mingle with her guests, and give each one a personal connection.

"Lisa's got more than charisma," longtime friend Karyn Schubert, who flies in from Chicago for the parties, says. "She knows how to read people, and pair them with right people based on their interest in wine, pets, or community. That's why everyone has a good time."

The food is always great, of course. At one notable birthday party, the all-dessert buffet was draped in fantastic color, from red whoopie pies to polka-dot brownie pops. The birthday cake was a spectacle, shaped like Goodman's white poodle, Sadie, a frequent guest at her parties.

Goodman's preferred caterer for the desserts is pastry chef Susan Spight, who has a

keen eye for detail. "Who else could make potato chips dipped in chocolate into a luxury item?" Goodman says.

With unique venues; beautiful and tasty food; and a host with a big personality and a welcoming spirit, it's easy to understand why Goodman's party invitations are coveted.

"Bring unique people together, keep what works, and improve what doesn't—it's that basic," Goodman says with a smile.

Lisa Goodman's Tips on Party-Planning

- **Guest List** "If people don't show up or call with regrets after two invitations, I stop inviting them—unless they invite me to



Photos Courtesy of Susan Spight



A bevy of guests enjoying a Lisa Goodman fundraiser. Photo Courtesy of Lisa Goodman

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something. My personal and political party lists keep growing every year."

- **Invitation** The invitation itself sets the mood for the party, so she looks for unique designs and beautiful paper. No evites from her.

- **Venue** For a fundraiser, "I like to showcase some of the loveliest homes in my ward. I always choose a home, because it is more personal. We can pick a caterer, and bring in liquor." For her birthday party, "My party outgrew my home, but it is still in my building!"

- **Decorations** "I rely on florists I trust to do their jobs well. I don't get caught up in the details, but the bigger and more unique the better."

- **Catering** "My birthday party is just

desserts. Susan Spight makes everything colorful, unique, and taste great. It feels like a party when her food shows up."

- **Bar** Goodman prefers real glassware: "It is essential—no plastic and no styrofoam." Included in her list of bar must-haves are Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc and Bombay Gin with diet tonic water. "They're my favorite beverages to have on hand, especially for a summer fundraiser."

- **Parting Gift** "It's a must-have sweet reminder of the party on the way home or the next day." The sweets are often worked into the theme, such as chocolate peanut-butter "Puppy Chow" for a party with a dog theme. □



Sioux Falls and Environs, South Dakota

Pink quartzite abounds in urban buildings and natural settings alike.

WHERE'S A Starbucks when you need one? In Southeast South Dakota, anchored by Sioux Falls, the coffee is made by frugal Swedes and Germans. Their strength went into taming this flat-as-a-dollar-bill landscape, erecting civic monuments that teeter from the magnificent, all glittery pink local quartzite; to the practical, the sod houses and claim shacks of earlier pioneers; to the downright quirky, as in a palace made of corncobs.

You'll come upon the Corn Palace in Mitchell, a Disney-on-the-prairie fantasy, all domes, turrets, and murals in multicolored corncobs, nailed to the gigantic building. Worth the drive? You betcha—even when there's not a basketball tournament or band performance (think John Philip Sousa; or Lawrence Welk, who entertained here) in its vast arena.

You'll also come upon those primeval sod houses, with yard-thick walls, and shanties—built to claim land given to pioneering farmers—in Madison's Prairie Village. They're part of the community of 40 completely furnished, hundred-year-old buildings gathered here: a barber shop, a general store, a railroad depot, as well as a unique "chapel" train car, with pews as seats and living quarters for its roving preacher.

In the Smith-Zimmerman Museum, on Madison's college campus, more artifacts to ogle, including a covered wagon of 1878, and a horseless buggy, converted to an early Cadillac with purchase of headlights and motor. Meanwhile, Madison's ladies embroidered "Tuesdays" on their dishtowels, also on display. Speculate on life even earlier—a thousand years ago—in Primitive Indian Village, watching archaeologists unearthing a settlement of mud and thatch Native houses.

Sioux Falls—a grand base for these short excursions—sparkles with pink quartzite,



(Clockwise from above) The Falls in Sioux Falls. • Phillips Avenue Diner in Sioux Falls. Photo by Carla Waldemar • Vintner Don South at his Strawbale Winery, outside Sioux Falls. Photo by Carla Waldemar





(Left) Settler's house, Prairie Village, Madison, South Dakota. Photo by Carla Waldemar



the local building block. It girds the Pettigrew House, the Queen Anne queen of the Historic District, home of the state's first senator, and open to tour. Pink stone also lines the Old Courthouse of 1896, now an art museum. Its galleries host such quirky shows as "Cruisin' Cuisine," documenting the city's once-lively drive-ins; and "Underwear," from bustles ("Does this make my butt look fat?") to GI briefs of World War II, with built-in DDT, and undershirts, which plummeted in market share when Clark Gable shed his onscreen. There's also a huge stuffed buffalo, whose every part was utilized by Indians—"the Walmart of its day."

More art at Washington Pavilion, a former high school now housing traveling shows, from Andy Warhol to Ansel Adams, plus interactive science displays, such as the fitness challenges (test your running speed, basketball throw, climbing-wall prowess, and more). Play a tune by walking on a giant keyboard, or listen to one in the adjoining South

Dakota Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame: You go, Bobby Vee!

Hop on the city's free trolley to Falls Park, the city's namesake, with not one but three waterfalls tumbling over more pink stone. Stop at the park's Overlook Café, whose chef performs magic with a three-burner hotplate, creating "comfort food with a twist."

Back on the main drag, slurp a malt (mine: Guinness/ espresso/chocolate) with a hot turkey sandwich at the quintessential Phillips Avenue Diner. Drop in for dinner at Bros Bistro, offering cosmo fare such as duck confit tacos and sea bass with sweet chili-lemongrass-ginger broth.

Give your wallet a workout at the avenue's eclectic shops, including Prairie Star Gallery (contemporary Indian art); Patina (upscale antiques); Ten Thousand Villages (global handmade goods); Artisan Shop (Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Stickley furniture); and Zand Bros Variety, giving a whole new meaning to "general store"—everything from a

wall devoted to books by Nobel Prize winners to the taxidermied critters hanging overhead.

Then, explore more wonders within an hour's drive. Nature lovers, start with Palisades, one of many inviting state parks. Here, nature has gone gaga with that pink quartzite, rising in narrow canyons above a tumbling river trail—"an oasis in the prairie," in the words of Ranger Marty, who goes nuts showing off rocks formed two billion years ago. "Geology at work!" he crows.

German settlers made their homes in Freeman, and one among them, wowed by the beyond-beautiful Indian artifacts he came across, exhibits his Smithsonian-worthy collection in the Museum of Indian Artifacts: intricately beaded moccasins and buckskin clothing; a "strike light" bag; and a "ghost dance" shirt, whose magic made it bulletproof.

In Vermillion, who-knew meets must-see in the National Music Museum. I'm expecting accordions, banjos, and a pump organ. Instead, 15,000 instruments collected by an avid band instructor, including rare Stradivarius violins, gorgeous Baroque harpsichords, the oldest cello in the world, and a golden Javanese gamelon big as my dining room. Yes, an early Hammond organ, plus Adolph Sax's first saxophone and Johnny Cash's guitar.

I'll drink to that. Join me in a toast at Strawbale Winery in Renner, where genial owners Don and Susan South offer tours and tastings of wine grapes developed in, ahem, Minnesota, like Frontenac, source of their popular Red Barn Red. Stop back for summertime's Sangria Sundays, and help chase down the cats and chickens.

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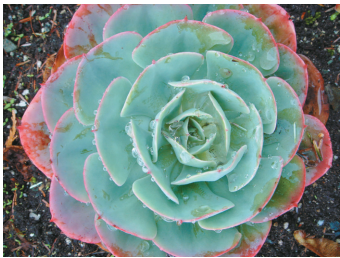
Gastown, where the city began, is its epicenter, full of restaurants, plus shops like the marvelous Inuit Art of Vancouver on Cambie Street, within walking distance of most everywhere, including the affordable Day's Inn on Pender. The hotel, which abuts fabulous Smiley O'Reilly's Pub, is within blocks of the Vancouver Art Gallery, from which one may stroll into the Rainbow District.

A must-see, however, is the magnificent Butchart Gardens, a ferry ride away on Vancouver Island. The 55 acres (and attendant 66 gardeners) were the inspiration of Jennie Butchart, wife of entrepreneur Robert Pim Butchart. In 1904, they established residence near Robert's limestone quarry, profitably mined to supply the burgeoning Portland cement industry. When the limestone was exhausted, the Butcharts were left with a gaping chasm in the backyard.

Jennie, choosing to see her glass as half-full, ordered tons of topsoil to be brought in by horse cart to cover the crater floor, and created therein a vast Sunken Garden. Thence, she tackled her Rose Garden, Bog Garden, Japanese Garden, Italian Garden, and so on, until by 1920, more than 50,000 visitors were flocking annually to Benvenuto, as the couple dubbed their home.

Today, there are restaurants, coffee shops, a show greenhouse, a fireworks viewing area, and a concert lawn and stage. The generosity and flair of the Butcharts continues to delight and enthrall. □





Photos by E.B. Boatner



GLASS AND MAYHEM HOLD ACTIVITIES AT PRIDE FESTIVAL

Pride Weekend, June 25-26, is one of the best opportunities to discover your inner athlete. Sporting opportunities exist for pretty much everyone, regardless of age or physical strength. The best thing you can do is to meet some of the players in person, and the best way to do so is to visit all the sports-team booths at the Pride Festival in Loring Park. They will all have information available about their teams and their seasons, plus how to get involved.

Three sports activities are going on at the Pride Festival that you will want to check out.

[GLASS VOLLEYBALL PRIDE TOURNAMENT]

On June 25, the GLASS Volleyball League will hold its annual Pride Tournament at the Pride Festival, near the shuffleboard courts on the northeast corner of Loring Park. It's a one-day, four-player grass volleyball tournament with a pool format. Teams of four players compete in a number of matches based on how many teams participate. This year, teams will be divided into three divisions: competitive, intermediate, and recreational. The cost for teams to participate is \$40. All proceeds benefit GLASS. Registration forms are available <at www.glassports.org>.



[GLASS TENNIS GAMES]

During the Pride Festival all day on June 25-26, at the tennis courts in Loring Park, GLASS Tennis will hold a fun get-to-know tennis event. In conjunction with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), Minnesota Rallies, the arm of GLASS that coordinates tennis matches for GLBT folks in the Cities, will host open tennis games. Individuals from USTA and the Rallies will be on hand to help people learn to play, and will provide tennis rackets. For more information, visit <www.glassports.org>.

[MAYHEM RUGBY FOOTBALL MATCH]

Mayhem Rugby Football Club will hold a shortened rugby match on June 26 at around 3 PM at the Pride Festival, near the shuffleboard courts on the northeast corner of Loring Park. Not sure what rugby is? Don't worry, the Mayhem will be there to explain, and will have a 101 Guide ready for curious onlookers. A fast-paced game, rugby is both mentally and physically demanding. All players on the field, regardless of position, must be able to run, pass, and catch the ball. It is a full-tackle sport, and players don't wear equipment as in American football. A rugby match typically consists of two 40-minute halves, but the Pride Match will be shortened to two 15-minute halves. It is free. For information, go to <www.mayhemrhc.com>. □





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JUNE 2

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A large, close-up photograph of a human eye. The iris is brown, and a syringe needle is positioned in the pupil, with a small amount of liquid being injected. The background is dark, making the eye the central focus.

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A promotional poster for Lavender's Pride Thursday. On the left, a man's face is shown in profile, looking down, with a rainbow-colored face paint design on his cheek. In the background, there is a plate of food, possibly Korean BBQ, with orange sauce and green onions. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

LAVENDER'S **PRIDE** Thursday

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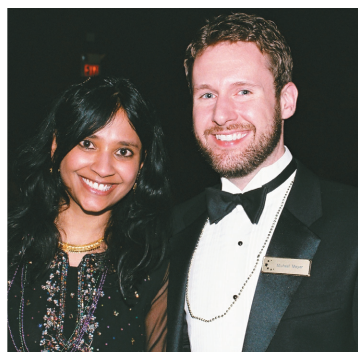
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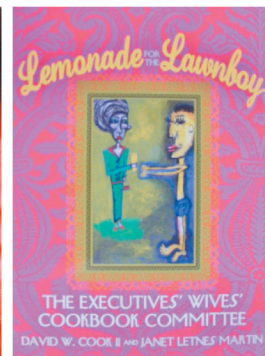
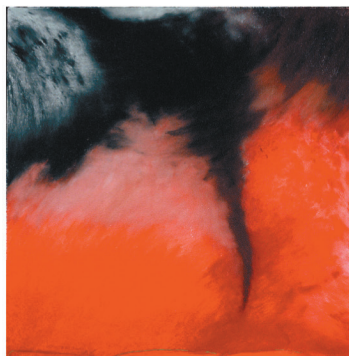
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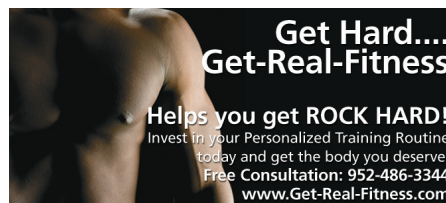


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New Fantasy House in Minneapolis.
Photo by Hubert Bonnet

IN 1980, the Fantasy Gifts chain of stores launched with the original Fantasy House on Hennepin Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets, which closed in 1987. For a number of years, Minneapolis had no Fantasy Gifts location. However, owner Colleen Bertino recently opened a beautiful new Fantasy House at 814-B Hennepin Avenue, in the ground-floor space formerly occupied by Café Di Napoli for nearly 70 years.

Like the others in the Fantasy Gifts chain of stores, Fantasy House carries a wide selection of lubricants, condoms, sex toys, vibrators, restraints, books, DVDs, novelties, games, cards, shoes, lingerie, lotions, oils, and bath/body products.

Fantasy House is open Monday-Thursday, 10 AM-10 PM; Friday-Saturday, 10 AM-Midnight; and Sunday, Noon-6 PM. The phone is (612) 355-5505.

Meanwhile, the Midway Fantasy Gifts location at 1437 University Avenue West, St. Paul, is now an outlet store. It's open Wednesday-Saturday, Noon-8 PM. Don't let the Light Rail Transit construction keep you away! The phone is (651) 256-7484. □

BUSINESS PROFILE | by Heidi Fellner



Photo by Mike Hnida

Buchholz & Burke

JOHN BUCHHOLZ and Allison Burke paired their skills when they established their new firm, which focuses on elder law, including estate planning, probate work, and Medicaid and Medical Assistance planning.

"If you're talking about asset protection and long-term planning, we're your go-to people," Buchholz says.

Unfortunately, our society as a whole doesn't deal with aging issues all that well. Furthermore, GLBT seniors often face additional legal complications, and may have an inadequate support system.

Buchholz explains, "In the Twin Cities metro alone, there are an estimated 20,000 LGBT seniors, and they are much more likely to live alone—to not have a spouse or partner. And, like all LGBT folks, they are three times more likely to not have children. So, as they get older, they face issues of isolation. Not only that, but if they reach out for services, it's hard for them to know where to do that safely. So, what we're trying to do is offer legal services in a safe way."

In order to maximize their accessibility, Buchholz and Burke will make house calls throughout the metro area. They offer flat fees, so no one gets stuck with a nasty surprise.

Of course, Buchholz is the first person

to admit it's a shame people have to pay for some of his services at all, and he notes, "Almost everything that we do, people shouldn't have to pay for. These things could all be built into the law. That's not reality, but in a perfect world, we'd be out of business."

However, the legal system being what it is, members of the GLBT community *must* take extra care to protect themselves. According to Buchholz, it is better to do that sooner rather than later: "Most people know they need to do some sort of estate planning and power of attorney. It costs money, and it's not an enjoyable thing to do, so then, they don't do it. But there are things people *don't* know they should do. People often enter into a long-term care situation before they consult an attorney."

Buchholz cautions that in those circumstances, the best time to contact an attorney is soon after a chronic illness is diagnosed. That way, clients are best able to take care of themselves, their assets, and their loved ones. □

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If I ever do such a thing, I'll refer immediately to the aromatherapy basket I received as a gift recently.

Bathing in the basket's bounty of therapeutic oils and spices will not only leave you with that special odor that emanates from inside a brand-new car, but also do wonders for the sagging spirit and other sagging things.

The basket contained, for example, a special Confidence Bath. Essential oils for boosting confidence are jasmine, marjoram, neroli, peppermint, and rosemary. Take a bath in these ingredients every night for a week, and you'll actually feel like boarding a commuter flight in a storm.

Creativity, too, can be boosted with this stuff. Oils for enhancing creativity are clary sage, helichrysum, and rosewood. I tried this for three consecutive nights, and—having never written a word of poetry before—was able to jot down, "There once was a guy from Nantucket..." before I passed out.

Need help with your love life? Well, just breathe jojoba oil, benzoin resin, coriander, and ginger. Here's what you do: Combine ingredients in a bowl. Set bowl on counter. Pick up cellphone. Dial 1-900-BADBOYS.

Insomnia too, can be cured with oils. Good Night Diffuser: Blend 25 drops lavender oil, 10 drops orange oil, and 8 drops German chamomile oil. (Caution: More than 8 drops, and you'll have the urge to storm-troop something.) Stir for 20 minutes. Listen to Tim Pawlenty speech. Leave note for someone to wake you before summer is over.

Myrrh oil is recommended for jock itch. This is not to say the more traditional method of treatment doesn't work: Put on baseball uniform. Wait until TV cameras focus on you. Scratch self like a badger.

My lovely aromatherapy basket also included Hemorrhoid Massage Oil.

I won't write about that.

You're welcome.

My favorite of all is avocado oil, which restores dry, dehydrated skin. After a few cocktails, it's not half bad on top of a tortilla chip.

Well, consider the source.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. □



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To Catch a Mouse

DOES ANYTHING test the strength of a relationship quite like bringing a third party into it?

Let's say you and your partner have become a bit bored with each other, and you decide to invite another into the fray to spice things up a bit. A time always comes when one of you feels that the outsider has overstayed the welcome, and it's time to give him or her the heave ho.

That's what happened this morning at breakfast.

"Bruce has got to go," my girlfriend said emphatically, as I tried to sputter an argument in Bruce's defense.

Bruce is a mouse that has been living in our house since winter. This morning, while we were sitting at the breakfast table, Bruce brazenly sauntered up to the dog food bowl, and casually nibbled kibble, while we stared at him in amazement.

The dogs, which are terriers, and thus bark at the slightest provocation, shrugged in indifference, and continued chewing on their rawhides. Over the past few months, Bruce has become part of their pack. The dogs chase any chipmunk, squirrel, rabbit, or leaf impudent enough to enter the sacred confines of our yard, but they leave Bruce alone.

"But the dogs like Bruce," I said.

"Well, I don't. Get rid of him," she demanded.

Around Christmas, when we first spotted evidence that a mouse had taken up residence, I immediately named the intruder Bruce.

"Why do you think there's only one, and why do you think it's a male?" my girlfriend asked.

"Because look at how particular he is," I said, marveling at his snooty taste in snacks. He tore into only our finest cocktail nibblies, leaving the cheap chips and cereal unmolested. "I'm certain he's a gay boy mouse. He has excellent taste."

"Why do we have to name him?" she asked.

"To keep you from killing him," I said. For months, this logic worked. It's hard to kill something with a name.

For the most part, Bruce has stayed out of firing range. But, lately, he has become more confident in his stature in the household. He boldly scampers about, doing his important business of hauling bits of expensive treats to his cozy nest on the back porch.

We weren't quite certain where the nest was, until we moved a trundle bed from the porch last weekend. There, under a comforter, we found both Bruce and his treasure trove of snacks.

Bruce had managed to haul at least a

half-bag of dog food as well as hundreds of crackers and nuts to his little bachelor pad. On the sheet under the comforter was his toilet, which was, in a word, revolting.

At that moment, I knew Bruce's days were numbered. He quickly scurried away, as my girlfriend cursed loudly, and tried to clobber him with a broom. I said that he'd probably leave the house on his own, now that we had destroyed his nest. She was skeptical.

Like any artful freeloader, he found a way back into our home. Now, self-assured and sassy, he was determined to live his life in the open, and proclaim his rightful place in our relationship.

"Either he goes or I do," my girlfriend said, as Bruce finished off his breakfast by taking a refreshing sip from the dogs' water bowl.

So, with a deep sigh, I began researching humane mousetraps on the Internet. As anyone who has ever been in a three-way relationship knows, when the fun is over for one, the fun is over for all. Then, it's time to dump the exciting stranger, and return to your placid life, stronger in your commitment to each other, and more wary of the charms of interlopers. ■

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LAVENDER

Dear Ms. Behavior:

My partner and I are raising our child with the lesbians who gave birth to her. Overall, it has been a comfortable, 50/50 arrangement. We all have gotten along famously regarding everything from methods of child rearing to scheduling to dietary issues.

However, now that June has learned to talk, we are concerned by the words she learns when she is with Patsy and Cassie. We need to figure out how to approach them about our concerns.

For example, after returning to us last weekend, June entered our home, and said, "It smells like farts." She laughed hysterically. She then proceeded to use the words "farts" and "poop" dozens of times over the next few days.

We don't know what her mothers are teaching her, but I can assure you that her daddies do not focus on poop. If anything, we put a lot of effort into teaching her the

proper words for things.

Because things have been so nice between her mothers and us, we don't want to mess it up with them.

So, what should we say to help them to understand that we don't want our daughter to have a potty mouth?

—DADDIES BRAD AND TJ

Dear Daddies Brad And TJ:

The question really isn't how to bring up the poop issue properly, so that you can save your relationship with your daughter's mothers, because really, you shouldn't bring it up at all. It's normal for June to be obsessed with poop (or excrement or doody or stool, if you'd prefer).

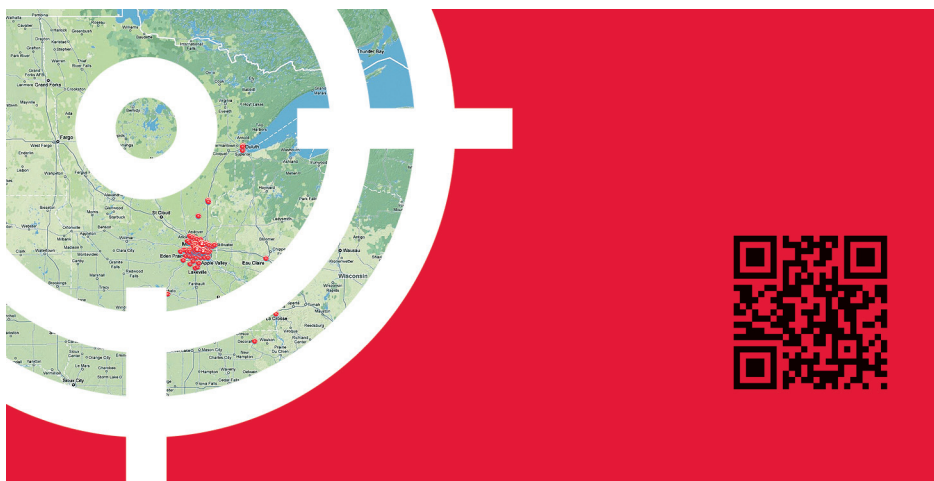
Because you don't seem to be suffering from a lack of education, the question is really a matter of why you're too uptight to recognize a universal developmental stage.

At a certain point when they start to speak, babies say "Dada" before they say "Mama." At another point, they put everything in their mouths. Starting at about age 4, according to everyone from Freud to Spock, they're obsessed with crap, regardless of what you call it.

When you teach your daughter to call her poop "feces," and to say "Excuse me for expelling gas" when she farts, you're not considering that your well-intentioned lessons may cause her to be a freak among her peers.

You and your partner may end up feeling more comfortable knowing that no unsavory words cross your daughter's lips, but eventually, your prissiness will be seen for what it is. Your little princess and her lesbian mothers will think of you and your boyfriend as tight little anal openings.

So, you'd be better off trying to hold it in, if you can.



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Dear Ms. Behavior:

I am a musician, and I sometimes need to play out of town. Because I have a great girlfriend, who is about to move in with me next month, I try to stay near home as much as possible.

A couple of weeks ago, I played with my band in another state for three nights. A woman there came to our show every night, and kept asking me to go out with her afterward.

I told her I had a girlfriend, but she persisted. Then, for some crazy reason, on the third night, I went home with her. I knew it was a mistake right away, and I could barely go through with the sex, but I was naked and in another woman's bed.

So, I guess that counts as cheating, right?

Once I arrived home, I went to see my therapist. She helped me to realize that I acted out because I was fearful of my increasing

commitment to Amy. Of course, I ended up feeling terrible about it.

Now, I need to know whether to tell Amy what happened. It feels deceptive not to tell her. If I do tell her, she might leave me.

If I promise myself that I'll never do it again, do I really have to tell her?

My therapist said that I don't, but I want your opinion too.

—DELLA

Dear Della:

What you want, on one hand, is permission not to tell your partner that you slithered around naked in another woman's bed.

On the other hand, you want to come clean, because you fear that feeling deceptive will mess up your relationship with your girlfriend.

Can you live with a secret? Or will the secret wedge between you and your girlfriend?

These are the questions you must ask yourself before your girlfriend moves in.

You think that the real risk of losing her only comes with telling the truth. However, feeling like a liar can be a slow torture, too—like pulling out one hair at a time. □

© 2011 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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That Guy

What does a young boy's disappointing experience have to do with people who reject him later in life?

"Hello, sir or ma'am. I would like you to buy this."

"What is it?"

"It's a *comfortabler*. Like for your bed. Except it's smaller, and made out of paper."

"OK. Let me get my wallet. How much?"

"That'll be 50 cents, but it's more if you wanna zebra one."

So went the sales story of my prepubescent youth, peddling 3" x 5" note cards with colorful patterns drawn on them—what I thought a bedspread might look like from the ceiling.

Most kids had lemonade stands to make money. I wanted to stand out. Designing mediocre, tiny, paper bedspreads was the obvious choice.

I crafted intricate designs on tiny card stock rectangles. I spent my Saturday afternoons knocking on our neighbors' front doors, flashing my charm and missing front teeth to whoever answered. I'd beg them to buy my drawings if I had to. I was ruthless.

Why not? The drawings I made for Mom at school were always well-received—gold star notoriety *and* front-of-the-fridge placement. Of course, those drawings took too much work—but a simple rectangle? Doable.

My venture, which I creatively called "Justin's Comfortablers," was a success. I clocked in a full four weeks before operations shut down. The profit? Enough to buy me a Mortal Kombat action figure.

It would've gone on longer, too, if it weren't for That Guy.

I knew him as a retired cop who lived at the end of the street, but Mom called him an asshole. That's what she called my dad, too, so I knew he wasn't good news.

However, 50 cents was 50 cents, and no



customer was immune to my antics.

I gave him my spiel when he opened his door ("Hello sir or ma'am. I would like you to buy this."), and he shut me down immediately.

"That's illegal, boy, selling things around here," he yelled in a scratchy, old-guy voice. "You know that? You want the police to come after you? This shit's ugly anyway. Get the hell out of my yard!"

I didn't know what "illegal" meant, but his rejection scalded me immediately. No one had ever said "no" before.

I dropped my stack of bedspreads, and started crying. I ran off his porch to my bicycle. He yelled to me about littering.

This moment was when I first knew what it meant to be rejected. What started out as a tantrum on an old man's front porch depressed me for weeks.

I couldn't concentrate in school. My mom's toy bribes didn't cheer me up. My mind was wholly set on That Guy—the one who looked me in the eye, and shooed me away; the one who didn't *want* me.

Overdramatic? Sure—but I was a kid, and my pain was real.

It's funny how those lessons follow us, isn't it?

These are the moments that help craft who we become. They teach us how to deal. Moments like this force us to grow up, and move on.

Unlike other precious childhood lessons, though, we never really get the hang of being rejected. It happens endlessly through life, and every time feels like the first.

Why? Because, unlike learning to deal with *not* getting the toy you wanted for Christmas, being rejected in this sense feels as if it strikes at the only thing we really have: who we are.

When someone denies us for this reason, there is no hope for tolerance. As a kid, my pitiful bedspreads felt this way.

That Guy follows us forever. He's the grumpy old man at the end of the street. He's in the mirrors of those who broke our hearts. He holds positions of power that allow him to reject those whose happiness he doesn't tolerate—say, oh, the happiness of two people who love one other, and happen to be the same gender....

Advice often given to the young and the hopeful—"Don't be *that* guy"—prescribes that the examples of The Obnoxious, The Ignorant, The Cynical, The Egotistical are noteworthy, because they are names for who our childhood lessons teach us not to become. They are the misguided.

That Guy eventually apologized to me.

One day, he will again.

To us. □

Keep in touch at <Facebook.com/JustinJonesWriter>.



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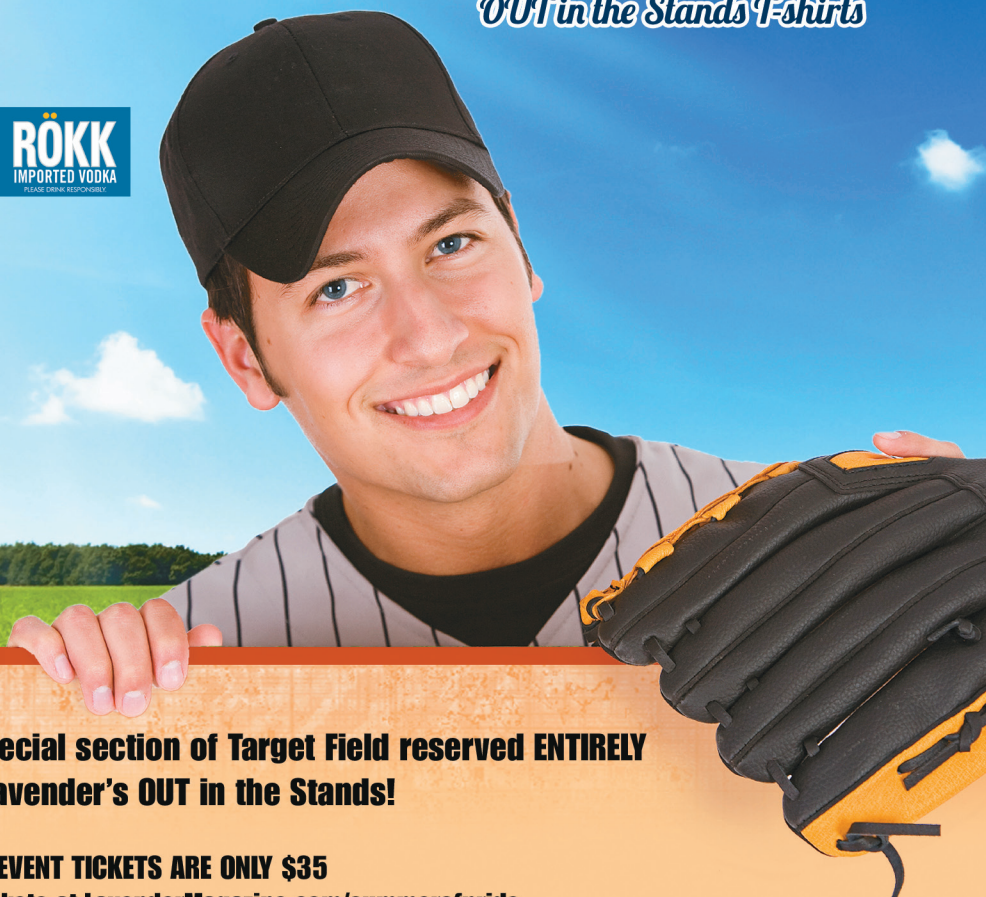
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